

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A floating structure ~~for_in the form of~~ a loading buoy or wellhead platform, the floating structure comprising:

- a surface element with a substantially rounded cross section in a substantially horizontal plane, the surface element being arranged floating in the water plane surface with a draught in the body of water,

- columns connecting the surface element to a submerged pontoon element which, in a substantially horizontal plane, has a substantially rounded external perimeter and a draught in the body of water,

- mooring devices ~~for~~ securing the floating structure to the seabed, and
- at least one attachment point for transfer pipelines to a second unit,

the surface element being arranged floating in the water plane surface, with a draught in the body of water, and wherein the proportion of the volume of the pontoon element divided by the waterline area of the surface element is in the range 4-12 [m³/m²], and that the draught of the surface element divided by the draught of the pontoon element is in the range 0.3-0.5 and wherein the mooring devices have a vertical mooring rigidity in the range 20-75% of the waterline rigidity for the structure surface element.

15. (Currently Amended) A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the floating structure is a loading buoy comprising attachment point for transfer pipelines from a production/processing/storage unit to the loading buoy and mooring and transfer devices for transferring fluid from the loading buoy to a loading/unloading vessel and the proportion of the volume of the pontoon element divided by the waterline area of the surface element is in the range 4-7 [m³/m²], and the draught of the surface element divided by the draught of the pontoon element is in the range 0.31-0.43 and where the mooring devices have a vertical mooring rigidity which is over 50% of the water plane rigidity for the structure surface element.

16. (Currently Amended) A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the floating structure is a loading buoy comprising attachment point for transfer pipelines from a production/processing/storage unit to the loading buoy and mooring and transfer devices for transferring fluid from the loading buoy to a loading/unloading vessel and the proportion of the volume of the pontoon element divided by the waterline area of the surface element is approximately 6 [m^3/m^2], and the draught of the surface element divided by the draught of the pontoon element is in the range 0.31-0.43 and where the mooring devices have a vertical mooring rigidity which is over 50% of the water plane rigidity for the structure surface element.

17. (Currently Amended) A floating structure according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the transfer pipeline from the loading buoy to the production/processing/storage unit vessel and the loading/unloading unit extends as catenaries from the loading buoy.

18. (Currently Amended) A floating structure according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the transfer pipeline from the loading buoy to the production/processing/storage unit vessel or the loading/unloading unit extends as catenaries from the loading buoy.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the surface unit comprises a rotatable deck element for varying orientation of mooring and transfer devices for transfer of fluid.

21.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the columns at least partly form buoyancy elements.

27. (Previously Presented) A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the surface element has a substantially cylindrical shape or alternatively an annular shape with a centre axis substantially vertically oriented.

28. (Previously Presented) A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the pontoon element is composed of an octagonal annular pontoon with an outer average diameter.

29. (Previously Presented) A floating structure according to claim 14, 15, 16 or 27, wherein the pontoon element is composed of an octagonal annular pontoon with an outer average diameter and the proportion between a diameter of the surface element divided by the average diameter of the annular pontoon is in the range 0.7.

30. (Currently Amended) A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the proportion of the surface element's draft to its total height is approximately equal to 0.75.